



American Industrial Hygiene Assn.
Oklahoma Section
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OKLAHOMA AIHA MEETING Tuesday, November 18, 2003

General Motors Assembly Plant

7447 Southeast 74th Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73169

Speaker: William C. Young
Facility Tour

Non-Member registration cost: \$15.00
Member registration cost: \$10.00
Full-time students: \$ 5.00

Board Meeting: 3:30 PM
Registration/Social: 5:30 PM
Dinner: 6:00 PM
Announcements & Business: 6:45 PM
Speaker: 7:00 PM

RSVP's are REQUIRED by Friday, November 14th!

Please contact John Grabowski at (918) 495-4764 or by e-mail at jgrabowski@okaiha.org to RSVP.



Directions from Oklahoma City:

Take I-240 to Air Depot Blvd. Travel north on Air Depot 2 blocks to 74th St. (Landmark: OKC Fire Sta. 13). Turn right (East) on 74th St. ~1/2mi. Turn left at Gate 4. Stop at the security gate and give name and purpose of visit. Turn right at the first intersection ~200 yards to the reception area (Landmark: flagpole)

Directions from Tulsa:

Take I-35 South from the Turner Turnpike (stay in the right lane). Take I-40 East to Sooner Rd. Exit. From Sooner Rd., turn left on 59th St. Travel ~1mi. to Air Depot Blvd. Turn right on 74th St. (Landmark: OKC Fire Sta. 13). Turn left at Gate 4. Stop at the security gate and give name and purpose of visit. Turn right at the first intersection ~200 yards to the reception area (Landmark: flagpole).

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The Oklahoma Section of the AIHA has two opportunities to voice its opinions to the regulatory community. The first is with the Oklahoma Department of Labor (ODOL) regulations on asbestos. For those of you who were able to attend the September meeting, you heard the direction that the ODOL is heading to update and integrate the existing state regulation with other standards such as AHERA, NIOSH 7400, and Federal OSHA regulations.

It has been our experience that the ODOL is open to comments and concerns regarding the existing regulation and proposed changes. However, concurrent with this regulatory update effort, there is activity brewing to convince the legislature that Oklahoma should not have state asbestos regulations that are more stringent than the Federal standards. While approximately 40 states currently have regulations that are more stringent than Federal, if only Federal standards are applied, how would this impact the health of Oklahoma asbestos workers and building occupants, the potential liabilities for building owners and asbestos abatement contractors, and the industrial hygiene community?

Here are some things to consider. The goal of having state rules in line with other standards would obviously be accomplished. This would include having an exposure limit of 0.1 fibers/cc based on an eight-hour time-weighted average. But did you know that OSHA states in the 1994 preamble to the asbestos regulations (when the PEL was reduced to 0.1 f/cc), "OSHA's risk assessment...showed that reducing exposure to 0.1 f/cc would further reduce, but not eliminate, significant risk. The excess cancer risk at that level would be reduced to a lifetime risk of 3.4 per 1,000 workers and a 20 year exposure risk of 2.3 per 1,000 workers...OSHA concluded therefore that continued exposure to asbestos at the TWA permitted level and action level would still present residual risks to employees which are significant."

Switching to only Federal requirements would also mean there would be (1) no requirement for a project design on non-AHERA projects, (2) the ability to use "negative exposure assessments" for some abatement projects, (3) a requirement for daily personal monitoring only (no area samples), which could be discontinued for the remainder of the job if the monitoring reveals "by statistically reliable methods" that

employee exposures are below the PEL, and (4) no requirement for clearance samples for non-AHERA projects. Theoretically, an entire asbestos abatement job could be performed without any required air monitoring data.

What concerns should industrial hygienists have when representing building owners and employers in this situation? What data should building occupants and abatement workers have available to confirm that they were not exposed to asbestos during or after the removal activity? Given these and other potential concerns, how should OK AIHA react to a proposal for the state of Oklahoma to adopt asbestos regulations substantially equivalent to the Federal standards? We would like to hear your opinions on these issues.

The second opportunity concerns the Oklahoma Joint Task Force on Mold and Mold Remediation. At their first meeting, held on September 30, 2003, the more significant issues presented to this Task Force included (1) how to address building defects that lead to mold problems and builder's responsibilities for correcting them, (2) insurance company trends to not provide insurance for mold-related claims, and (3) the lack of uniformity of acceptable procedures for how to inspect or remediate, and the opportunity in this field for untrained or unscrupulous individuals to provide inadequate services and unnecessary or unfounded recommendations.

National AIHA supports efforts to assure that individuals are properly educated and trained in the occupational and environmental hazards of mold. Industrial Hygiene is one of the leading professional disciplines regarded as qualified and capable of assessing potential mold hazards. As you are well aware, a significant portion of AIHA's membership is comprised of Certified Industrial Hygienists (CIHs). The CIH designation is the hallmark certification of the industrial hygiene profession. A CIH has already met stringent education and experience requirements to become certified. Nevertheless, it may be argued that some CIHs may need additional training on the specific potential hazards and control of mold, or that just because someone holds the CIH designation does not necessarily mean that the individual has expertise in microbial investigation or remediation. As a reminder, the ABIH Code of Ethics does require that a CIH "perform services only in the areas of their competence" and, in that matter, mold investigation and remediation is no different than any other area of IH practice.

What constitutes competence in the area of mold investigation and remediation? How much education and/or experience should be required? Can one take a three day course and know everything one needs to know about investigating mold? Can one read the literature and know what is necessary? If certification/registration/licensure is proposed, who would oversee this process? Should there be a "grandfathering" or other exemption for those professionals meeting certain minimum educational and experience guidelines? All these questions will likely need to be addressed as this Task Force gathers information and proposes legislation.

The OK AIHA Board welcomes your comments and opinions on these important issues. Let your Board know how you stand on these issues by contacting any of the Board members. For a listing of contact information for any Board member, go to www.okaiha.org.

Cheri Marcham, CIH, CSP, CHMM
President, Oklahoma Section AIHA

NOVEMBER MEETING

The next meeting of the OK AIHA will be held on **Tuesday November 18, 2003** at the General Motors Assembly Plant in Oklahoma City. FOR FACILITY SECURITY AND SAFETY REASONS, IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO PROVIDE GM WITH AN ACCURATE LIST OF ALL PARTICIPANTS PRIOR TO THE MEETING. Accordingly, please advise John Grabowski at (918) 495-4764 or by e-mail at jgrabowski@okaiha.org **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2003** of your plans to attend this facility tour. SPACE IS LIMITED!

GM does have certain clothing and PPE requirements for visitors to its facilities. Safety glasses (with side shields) are required for the body shop portion of our tour. For those with prescription glasses, please bring side shields for the tour. GM will have non-prescription safety glasses available our use. Also, do not wear any shoes have open toes or open heels as the foot must be completely covered. Also, wear long pants as no exposed legs are permitted due to the body shop restrictions. GM will provide protective arm sleeves.

This will be an enlightening and enjoyable meeting. Please make plans to attend.

AIHA NEWS

Government Affairs

On September 24, the National Advisory Committee on Ergonomics (NACE) held its third meeting. In addition to reports presented from the working groups (guidelines, outreach and assistance, and research), OSHA Administrator John Henshaw provided the group with thoughts from the Agency about existing and future efforts on ergonomics.

The most important action item from the meeting was a call for additional research on the issue. To accomplish this, the Committee decided to move ahead with an ergonomics symposium aimed at filling in research gaps related to ergonomics. The symposium will be held in conjunction with the NACE public meeting on January 27, 2004. OSHA has distributed a press release seeking abstracts from researchers interested in presenting at the symposium.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Get a head start on your 2004 Tan!

The Hawaii Local Section of AIHA and the University of Hawaii, John A. Burns School of Medicine, College of Public Health Sciences and Epidemiology, is offering a 5-day industrial hygiene review course January 26-30, 2004, in Honolulu, HI. The 5-day course has been approved by ABIH for 5.0 C.E. However, if you are anxious to work on your tan and your surfing skills, you may attend each day individually as part of a “mini-series” concept and receive 1.0 C.E. for each day of attendance.

The objective of the 5-day course is to provide a venue for ABIH certified industrial hygienists to upgrade their skills and to provide a comprehensive examination review for those aspiring CIHs. The featured instructor is Steven Levine, CIH, Emeritus Professor from the University of Michigan Wolverines and past-president of the AIHA.

Book your reservations early and study concepts in industrial hygiene from a tropical paradise!

<http://www.aihahawaii.org/Jan262004specialevents.html>

PROFESSIONAL NEWS

On September 26, 2003, the Board of Certified Safety Professionals signed an alliance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration to promote professionalism and to improve safety and health practices.

OSHA and BCSP will work together to provide information and guidance regarding the value of safety and health professionalism and accredited certifications, including the CSP designation. In addition, both organizations will review and share the results of the Board's studies to define a job performance metrics for safety and health professionals. Safety curricula will be developed that could be incorporated into training and education courses, including those offered by OSHA's education centers.

For more information, visit the OSHA website at www.osha.gov or the BCSP website at www.bccsp.org.

The Committee also recommended that five industries be targeted for future ergonomics guidelines: air transport, hospitals, trucking and courier services, grocery wholesale products and motor vehicle equipment. This would be in addition to the existing guidelines for nursing homes and the proposed guidelines for retail grocers and poultry processing. Guidelines for shipyards are expected early next year. John Henshaw also stated the Agency is considering guidelines for plastics, furniture and the printing profession.

In discussing additional agency efforts, Mr. Henshaw mentioned an existing effort on defining upper extremity ergonomics injuries being undertaken by the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine and AIHA. The Committee was also updated on outreach and assistance efforts involving 13 strategic partnerships and 16 alliances – all focused on ergonomics efforts.

One issue that Mr. Henshaw wanted to clarify to the Committee was ongoing discussions among many stakeholders who accuse the agency of using ergonomics guidelines for enforcement. Mr. Henshaw made it perfectly clear that the agency is not using ergo guidelines in the enforcement process.

State of Washington – Initiative 841

AIHA sent letters to the editors of newspapers in the State of Washington urging voters to reject Initiative 841, an effort intent on repealing the state's existing ergonomic legislation. “The study of ergonomics is based on sound scientific principles and can, when properly applied, prevent or decrease the severity of injuries. Many employers in Washington already have comprehensive ergonomics programs in place. These programs have already demonstrated savings and many are documented on the Washington State Labor and Industries website,” said AIHA President Thomas G. Grumbles, CIH, in the letter. “Workers benefit from sound ergonomics programs by having fewer injuries and longer, more productive careers.”

The complete text of AIHA's letter is available at www.aiha.org under “Government Affairs.”

AIHA's Environmental Microbiology Lab Accreditation Program Adds New Field of Testing

The Analytical Accreditation Board (AAB) of the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) has voted to add a new field of testing, spore trap analysis, to the Environmental Microbiology Laboratory Accreditation Program (EMLAP). Spore trap proficiency testing will not initially be available but will be added later. Spore trap analysis involves direct or nonculturable analysis of the fungal material present in a particular sample. Laboratories offering spore trap analysis microscopically examine samples to count the number of spores present and provide identification of the fungus type down to the genus level.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Are you a current member of the Oklahoma Section of the AIHA? If not, you can obtain a membership form from our website at WWW.OKAIHA.ORG. Please complete the form and bring it with you to our November meeting, or you may mail your application and payment to:

Stephen Lowery, CIH, CSP,
Treasurer – Oklahoma Section AIHA
P.O. Box 1073
Oklahoma City, OK 73101

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Our goals this year are to continue the growth of the OK AIHA membership and, more importantly, increase attendance at the OK AIHA sponsored events. We are continuing our offer to help increase our membership. If you bring someone to a meeting this year who has not been a member of the OK AIHA for at least three years and that individual becomes a full member of the OK AIHA that evening, your meeting registration fee is free. Here are the rules:

- **This offer is for new membership only!** (The new member cannot have been a member of OK AIHA since 1999.)
- The new member must meet our membership criteria (e.g., be a professional IH or closely allied professional).
- At the time of the meeting, the new member must pay for his/her \$20 full membership fee plus the registration fee for that meeting (usually in the \$10 - 15 range).

The sponsoring member must have paid his/her 2002-2003 membership dues.

OKLA AIHA Web Page

Have you checked the OK AIHA website lately? Did you know it existed? Go to www.okaiha.org and find the latest message from the local section president. Under Government Affairs you'll find news releases from OSHA and the legislature that affect our profession. Looking for a new job? Check out Career Opportunities. Power Point presentations from our previous quarterly dinner meetings are kept under Presentations. Want to know when and where the next meetings will be? Check the Calendar. Want to know what makes OK AIHA click? Then click the OK AIHA Bylaws. Need to connect with other health and safety sites? Click on Related Links. From the newsletters, to membership "Three out of five survey participants (58.1%) held the opinion that being a generalist in the field offered the best employment opportunities."

Segments With Best Employment Opportunities:

58.1% Generalist in Field
9.5% IH
8.5% Safety
7.3% Safety
2.1% Other
0.9% Ergonomics

Reference: "Charting the Future: 2003 AIHA Membership Survey" *The Synergist*, August 2003, pages 38-39.

OKLA AIHA TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance (8/13/03):	5,006.37
Income:	943.94
Expenses:	(1,199.69)
Ending Balance (11/3/03):	4,750.62

OKLAHOMA SECTION

AMERICAN INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATION

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
JULY 1, 2003 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2004

Name:	
Affiliation:	
Street Address:	
City, State, ZIP Code:	
Telephone No.:	
Telefax No.:	
E-mail address:	
Credentials (Ph.D., CIH, CSP, PE, CHMM, etc):	
Area of Expertise:	

Have you ever been a member of the Oklahoma Section, AIHA? Yes ___ No ___
 (If yes, please indicate the last fiscal year you were a member (i.e., 7/01/02-6/30/03): _____)

Please check the appropriate box and enclose the appropriate funds.

? **Full Member** – (Voting privileges, may hold position on OK AIHA Board if National member) **\$20**
 ? Check here if you are a member of National AIHA. National member number: _____

? **Associate Member** (No voting privileges, may not hold board position, includes ancillary professionals, full-time students, retirees and others not wishing to vote) **\$15**

? **Corporate Member** (No voting privileges for the corporation, however, the corporation may name two individuals as full members and up to ten individuals as associate members. The two full members must meet OK AIHA membership criteria. Once approved by the OK AIHA Board of Directors, the two full members have all rights and privileges of full membership. **\$100**

Names of the Designated Full Members: _____

Designated Associate Members: _____

If this is a new application, full membership is subject to two-thirds approval of the Executive Committee of the Oklahoma Section.

If elected, would you be willing to serve as an OK AIHA Board Member? Yes No

Please make checks payable to: **Oklahoma Section, AIHA**

Please remit to:

Steve Lowery, CIH, CSP
 Treasurer, Oklahoma Section AIHA
 P.O. Box 1073
 OKC, OK 73101